

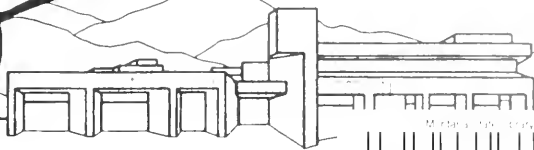
Montana Newsletter

Montana State Library

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VOLUME 20, NO. 2

JULY 1992

Governor Proposes Cut In State Library Budget

The State Library would have to absorb an additional \$13,870 cut in its fiscal 1993 operating budget if the upcoming special legislative session adopts Gov. Stephens' recently released executive budget proposal.

If the proposal is passed during the session (scheduled to convene on Monday, July 6), the State Library will have seen its general fund support reduced by 6.27% in fiscal 1992 and 8% in fiscal 1993.

The governor's proposal would reduce the total fiscal 1993 operating budget for all state agencies by more than \$9 million.

State Library Commission Members Reappointed

Mary Doggett, chair of the State Library Commission, and Michael Schulz, Commission member, were recently reappointed to new terms. Doggett, of White Sulphur Springs, was named to a second three-year term by Gov. Stan Stephens.

Schulz, director of the Lucy Carson Memorial Library at Western Montana College in Dillon, was reappointed by Commissioner of Higher Education John Hutchinson to a three-year term.

New Disabilities Law Affects All Libraries

The State Library reminds all libraries--public libraries in particular--of their responsibility to comply with provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

This landmark legislation extends to people with disabilities civil rights protection in the areas of employment, public accommodations, state and local government services and telecommunications.

Libraries are subject to the ADA both as employers and as providers of a public service.

By this time, local public entities are to have conducted a self-evaluation of current services, policies and practices to determine if they are in compliance with Title II of the ADA; otherwise, public library directors should pursue this with the appropriate local government authorities.

Library Development will attempt to assist libraries with specific questions about the ADA. Call Sheila Cates at 444-5352.



Members of Montana's library community met with the state's Congressional delegation in Washington, D.C., on ALA Legislative Day (April 7). Shown with U.S. Sen. Conrad Burns, R-MT, are, from left: Karen Hatcher, dean, UM Mansfield Library; Mary Doggett, chair, State Library Commission; State Librarian Richard T. Miller, Jr.; Debbie Schlesinger, director, Lewis & Clark Library; Helena; Barbara Berens, member, Friends of the Missoula Public Library; Michael Schulz, State Library Commission member; Abe Abramson, former State Library Commission member, and Lloyd Wallin, vice-chair, State Library Commission.

Annual Luncheon Honors State Library Volunteers

The Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped hosted about 75 guests at the State Library's annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon May 15 at Jorgenson's Restaurant in Helena.

Entertainment was provided by Helena musician and actress Colleen Mockler, who enthralled the audience with her interpretive readings of poetry and prose. After the luncheon, cakes baked by volunteer Millie Huxley were served.

After remarks by LBPH Regional Librarian Sandra Jarvie and greetings from the State Library Commission by Commission Chair Mary Doggett, State Librarian Richard Miller unveiled two plaques that will hang permanently in the library honoring those who have given more than five years of service as either Telephone Pioneers or recording and circulation volunteers.

LBPH Volunteer Coordinator Gen Allen said the library's volunteers donated more than 10,700 hours of service in 1991, amounting to an in-kind contribution of approximately \$100,000.



Sean Rife, 10, is the State Library's youngest volunteer. He and his mother, Cecilia Rife, help the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped once a week with talking book circulation.



These longtime volunteers (all octogenarians) were singled out for special recognition May 15 during the Montana State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped's annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. They are, from left: Jeanette Falsom, Mary Gabse, Robbie Rouse, Bob Andre and Rose Mary Rougle. (Not pictured: Bernece Arts and Ann Teigen.)

Book Challenges Emerge

Book challenges have recently emerged at both public and school libraries, raising concerns about censorship and redoubling the State Library's efforts to function as a clearinghouse for such challenges.

The Big Sky, by A.B. Guthrie, Jr., *Siddhartha* by Hermann Hesse and *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley came under attack at Sweet Grass County High School in Big Timber in May. The challenges were taken up by the local school board, which voted to keep all three books in the curriculum. *Siddhartha* and *Brave New World* are now before the county superintendent.

At Flathead County Library in Kalispell, *Forever Wars*, a YA graphic (illustrated) novel by Joe Haldeman, was challenged in May for alleged excessive violence. Director Georgia Lomax said a review committee recommended the book's retention, and the library board concurred.

The State Library has a special form to keep track of materials

challenges at any type of library. It asks for details on the incident and how it was resolved, enabling the agency to provide up-to-date information to librarians, the media and others when necessary.

If you need a form, please call Library Development at 444-5349.

Voters Pass Library Levies

Voters approved two levies June 2 that will directly benefit the public libraries in Helena, Augusta, Lincoln and Columbia Falls.

In Lewis & Clark County, voters narrowly passed an emergency mill levy affecting the Lewis & Clark Library in Helena and its branches in Augusta and Lincoln, as well as several other county agencies and programs. It had failed last year.

In Columbia Falls, voters endorsed a \$6,346 maintenance levy for the branch library there by a wide margin.

Children's Book Reviews

The key after each review gives the grade levels for which the book would be appropriate, the reviewer's assessment of the book's quality (Q) and popularity (P) level (with Q4 and P4 being the highest possible rating), the publisher's information, publication date, number of pages, price and ISBN number.

How My Family Lives in America, by Susan Kuklin (reviewed by Charlotte Henson, librarian, Lincoln/Hawthorne Schools, Helena).

First-person text from three different minority children (Hispanic, Asian-American and African-American) describes their lives and how their cultural heritage survives through stories, poems, cooking, games and language.

The large, full-color illustrations nicely augment the slight text and paint very appealing pictures of family life for the three children. This is not a book children would choose on their own but would be a delightful addition to a social studies unit on families, communities or the diversity of America.

(Grades K-4; Q4/P2; Bradbury Press; 1992; \$13.95; ISBN 0-02-751239-8.)

Kate on the Coast, by Pat Brisson (reviewed by Charlotte Henson).

In the style of Vera William's *Stringbean's Trip to the Shining Sea*, Pat Brisson uses 50% cartoon pictures (by Rick Brown) and 50% text to take us along the West Coast from California to Alaska to Hawaii.

When the heroine, Kate, moves to Seattle, she writes back to her friend in New Jersey and describes typical tourist attractions in each coastal state. The breezy style is appealing and has just enough state information to support the social studies curriculum. This book is a good example of how many books today are

trying to personalize facts for the better understanding of the student. (Though I did wonder why a picture of the Seattle statue, "Waiting for the Interurban," is described as being at a train station when it is nowhere near one.)

(Grades 3-5; Q3/P2; Bradbury Press; 1992; \$13.95; ISBN 0-02-714341-4.)

Marsh Cat, by Peter Parnall (reviewed by Judy Stephenson, librarian, Judith Gap Schools).

Cat is a huge, black, wild cat that comes to the barn for an easy life for the winter. He remains aloof in spite of Tracy's efforts to domesticate him. When a forgotten trap and a deadly struggle with a fisher early in the spring leave Cat badly hurt, he crawls back to the barn and through a crevice in the foundation. Two of the barn cats find him and clean his wounds, but Cat nearly dies before the girl who had tried to tame him all winter discovers his hiding place.

A cage at the veterinarian's becomes unbearable, so Tracy nurses him back to health in the barn. She wants him as a pet; Cat wants to return to the marsh he has always called home.

The book, illustrated with sketches of Cat and his world, will appeal to youngsters who like realistic animal stories.

(Grades 3-6; Q3/P3; Macmillan; 1991; 128 pp.; \$12.95; ISBN 0-02-770120-4.)

The Boxing Champion, by Roch Carrier (reviewed by Dianna Babcock, librarian, Winnett School).

Spring-the-time when the local boys could no longer play hockey and thus, thoughts turn to boxing. Young Roch, determined to be a champion this year, spends all his money on a muscle-building kit and follows instructions to think, "I am a champion!" When he is summarily defeated, misery turns to joy as "the prettiest girl in the whole class" smiles at him and throws him flowers.

Set in Canada, this picture book has a foreign flavor. The colorful illustrations are in the style of a fifth-grade artist, though often done from interesting perspectives.

Others may like this book, but I found the story hard to follow and the pictures unappealing. The story seems to be written for third to fifth graders who will surely reject the picture-book format.

(Grades 3-5; Q2/P2; Tundra Books; 1991; 24 pp.; \$14.95; ISBN 0-88-776249-2.)

Going West, by Jean Van Leeuwen (reviewed by Dianna Babcock).

Charming, pastel pictures on brown paper with ragged borders highlight this delightful book about an early homesteading family.

The details of daily life, the quiet wholesomeness, and the point of view of a child combine to make this an admirable "Little House on the Prairie"-type story for the picture-book set.

(Grades K-3; Q4/P3; Dial Books; 1992; 46 pp.; ISBN 0-80-371027-5.)

Windcatcher, by Avi (reviewed by Dianna Babcock).

Swallows Bay on Long Island Sound is the setting for adventure and mystery. Eleven-year-old Tony learns to sail his small boat while visiting his grandmother and discovers clues leading to a sunken treasure. Adventure turns to terror when he is threatened by a secretive couple, marooned and then lost in the fog on the water.

The characters are three-dimensional, believable and show growth. The writing is clear and fast-paced. The story includes information on sailing and history, as well as introducing the reader to uncommon dialect. Sure to be a winner with the junior-high set.

(Grades 4-7; Q4/P3; Bradbury Press; 1991; 124 pp.; \$12.95; ISBN 0-02-707761-6.)

(continued from page 3)

Tiger With Wings: The Great Horned Owl, by Barbara J. Esbensen, illustrated by Mary Barrett Brown (reviewed by Candice Morris, children's librarian, Lewis & Clark Library, Helena).

This is an informative, clearly written book about the tiger of the skies: the great horned owl. The illustrations are quite striking and are liberally laced throughout. The large format and simple text will appeal to kids who have to do a report.

This is an excellent companion book to Jane Yolen's *Owl Moon*.

(Grades 3-6; Q4/P3; Orchard Books; 1991; \$14.95; ISBN 0-531-08540-6.)

Dial-a-Croc, by Mike Dumbleton, illustrated by Ann James (reviewed by Candice Morris).

Vanessa catches a crocodile and gives him the choice of becoming 10 handbags and five pairs of shoes or helping her make money. He chooses employment and what ensues is hilarious.

Among the many jobs for Dial-a-Croc is inspiring the swim team to swim faster. Three world records are broken.

Children will enjoy this picture book about a dauntless little girl and a very enterprising crocodile.

(Grades PS-3; Orchard Books; 1991; \$14.95; ISBN 0-531-08545-7.)

Little Sister For Sale, by Morse Hamilton, illustrated by Gioia Fiammenghi (reviewed by Candice Morris).

What child with a younger brother or sister hasn't felt like getting rid of them? After younger sister Abby has eaten all the strawberries, dropped Kate's toothbrush in the toilet, chopped off Kate's doll's hair and been a general nuisance, older sister Kate is fed up. She sells her little sister to a grandmotherly neighbor for 25¢.

In the end, Kate misses being a big sister in this picture book about sibling discord and sibling harmony. (Grades PS-3; Q3/P3; Dutton; 1992; \$13.00; ISBN 0-525-65078-4.)

Bently & egg, by William Joyce (reviewed by Cathy Siegner, publicity/youth services specialist, Montana State Library).

Joyce, the inspired author/illustrator of *A Day With Wilbur Robinson* and *Dinosaur Bob and His Adventures With the Family Lazardo*, applies his unique talents to the springtime theme of new life and the age-old theme of friendship.

Bently Hopperton, a young musical frog who loves to draw, is asked by his duck friend, Kack Kack, to watch her newly laid egg while she visits a friend. He agrees but is bored both with the task and with his plain, white charge.

Artists have ways of enlivening a bare canvas, but there's also a down side. Bently's by now beautifully painted egg is snatched by a rude boy who thinks it's from the Easter Bunny, and the valiant eggsitter must hop to the rescue.

The art is wonderful and Joyce's writing style has a way of making the most bizarre events seem really quite logical.

(Grades PS-3; Q4/P3; Laura Geringer/HarperCollins; 1992; \$14.89; ISBN 0-06-020386-2.)

The Signmaker's Assistant, by Tedd Arnold (reviewed by Cathy Siegner).

Norman is apprentice to the town's signmaker, whose work everyone not only admires but obeys. If the sign reads, "Stop," or "Please Keep Off the Grass," they comply because the signs are so sensible and polite.

This gives Norman an idea, and when the old signmaker has to leave town overnight, he indulges his delusions of grandeur with predictably chaotic results.

Arnold has a commercial artist's sense of color and design; the pictures sometimes look almost like a cartoon. Kids will love this one, as they must have enjoyed his *No Jumping on the Bed*, *Ollie Forgot* and *Mother Goose's Words of Wit and Wisdom* (all published by Dial). (Grades PS-3; Q4/P4; Dial; 1992; no price listed; ISBN 0-803-71011-9.)

Taking Turns: Poetry to Share, collected by Bernice Wolman, illustrated by Catherine Stock (reviewed by Bette Ammon, Missoula Public Library).

Aptly titled, *Taking Turns* is a collection of poetry to be shared by child/children and adult(s). Thematically paired poems are arranged with a simpler poem on the right page and a slightly more complex verse on the left page.

Designed to encourage reading and sharing between parent and child, the collection includes favorite and familiar poets such as Christina Rossette, Kate Greenaway, Elisabeth Coatsworth, Langston Hughes, etc.

The nicely done watercolor wash illustrations suit the poems they match, providing good picture clues for the readers.

(Grades 1-6; Q3/P3; Atheneum; 1992; \$13.95; ISBN 0-689-31677-1.)

Gretchen's ABC, by Gretchen Dow Simpson (reviewed by Pam Smith, Montana State Library).

Simpson gives the ABC's a new twist. Familiar objects are viewed from an unfamiliar perspective, making the book a guessing game. For the real tough-to-get ones (and some are!), there's a word list.

Many of the illustrations were taken from paintings originally appearing on *New Yorker* magazine covers. Young and old alike will enjoy this book.

(Grades K-4; Q4/P3; Laura Geringer/HarperCollins; 1991; 27 pp.; \$16.89; ISBN 0-06-025645-1.)

Press Roundup

The 1992 summer reading program "**Dragon Tales**" is in full swing at many public libraries and some school libraries across the state. Special events include: puppet shows, mask making, demonstrations by the Society for Creative Anachronism and float building.

Basin Elementary School kids donated money they earned from recycling to the **Boulder Library**.

Money is being raised for an extensive facelifting project at the **Kohrs Memorial Library** in Deer Lodge.

The 100th birthday of a local man sparked a special "Tom Marshall Day" May 12 at the **Twin Bridges Public Library**.

A champagne and chocolates fundraiser in May netted nearly \$2,000 for the **Lewis & Clark Library** in Helena.

The **Bitterroot Public Library** in Hamilton has asked the county commission for \$19,500--the same funding request as last year.

Pre-schoolers got advice on dealing with stress May 29 at the **Butte Silver-Bow Public Library**.

An encyclopedia set on Japanese crafts was a gift from the local Soroptimists to the **Glasgow City County Library**.

The **State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped** co-sponsored a Low Vision Seminar June 4-6 in Great Falls.

Use is way up at the **Columbia Falls Branch Library** since the December debut of an on-line system linking the county's libraries.

A magnification system for patrons with poor vision is available at the **Flathead County Library** in Kalispell.

A parade June 13 kicked off **Hearst Free Library's** "Summer Reading Olympics" for Anaconda kids.

Yellowstone County Commissioners agreed to let **Parmly Billings Library** use a \$30,000 reserve fund.

The **Stone Child College** tribal and community library won a \$35,000 federal literacy grant.

The retirement after 27 years of Phyllis Williamson, **Great Falls Public Schools library media supervisor**, was noted June 16 in the *Great Falls Tribune*.

Donelle Sharpe and Crystal Erickson of **Big Horn County Library** in Hardin attended the National Bookmobile Conference May 31-June 2 in Columbus, OH.



Natural Resource
Information System
Montana State Library

•The Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) has two new people joining the staff. **Fred Gifford** started June 24 as GIS Coordinator, replacing Allan Cox who became NRIS director in February. Fred has a master's degree in geography and comes to NRIS from the San Bernadino County GIS in California. Besides his county experience, Fred has several years of GIS experience in the private sector.

Cory Craig is the new Assistant Data Manager for the Natural Heritage Program. Cory, who begins her job July 13, recently completed a master's degree in library science at UCLA. We welcome the newcomers to the NRIS program.

•Geneticist Dave Skaar may be best known for his pioneering work with birds. It was Dr. Skaar who first developed the use of "latilong" mapping for birds, thus creating a means by which hundreds of birders could learn about and contribute information on Montana's birds.

The Heritage Program has collaborated with the Montana Audubon Council and the state Dept. of

Friends of the **Madison Valley Library** in Ennis have received \$2,500 from Montana Power Co. to fund children's services.

The *Great Falls Tribune* ran a big feature story June 1 on Director Florence Kettering and the **Lewistown City Library**.

Study Contract Awarded

The Blue Bear Group of Denver, library consultants, will conduct the federation study. Their final report is due September 23.

Fish, Wildlife and Parks on the fourth edition of P.D. Skaar's *Montana Bird Distribution*, a 125-page book giving information and distribution maps on 357 bird species, including lists of rare species and neotropical birds that breed in and migrate through Montana but winter in Central and South America.

Additional information and copies of the book (\$6, plus \$1 if ordered by mail) are available by calling the Heritage Program at 444-3009.

Upcoming Conferences

"**Information Technology: IT's for Everyone**," Library and Information Technology (LITA) national conference, Sept. 13-16, Denver. Contact LITA at ALA, 800-545-2433.

"**Window to the World: The Challenge of Change**," joint MPLA/WLA conference, Sept. 30-Oct. 3, Cheyenne, WY; call 307-777-6289 for more information.

"**Evaluating Children's Books: A Critical Look**," the 34th annual Allerton Institute, Oct. 25-27, 1992, near Monticello, IL; call Jeffrey Sands, University of Illinois, 217-333-2881.

On the Library Shelf

The following library-related titles are available from Information Resources at the State Library:

1992 Arbuthnot Honor Lecture videotape (809.8 Arbuthn 1992 Video);

202+ Software Packages to Use in Your Library (025.0202 Dewey);

Literacy and the Library (027.6 Salter);

Delivery of Information and Materials Between Libraries: The State of the Art (025.523 Deliver);

Best Books for Junior High Readers (R 011.625 Gillesp);

Developing Public Library Collections, Policies and Procedures (025.2187 Cassell);

A Bookkeeping System for Small Public Libraries (025.11 Campbell);

American Indian Reference Books for Children and Young Adults (R 970.0041 Kuipers);

Weeding: Cultivating Your Library (025.216 Weedin Video);

Communicating Within the Library: The Language of Leadership (025.1 Library);

Calendar of Events

July

- 13 Montana Center for the Book Steering Committee, Helena
- 24 Library Services Advisory Council, Helena
- 24-25 Cultural Congress, Bozeman

August

- 12-15 Pacific Northwest Library Association Annual Conference, Bellevue, WA
- 18 State Library Commission, Helena (date change)

Havre Librarians Honored

Two librarians from the Havre-Hill County Library have been honored for their work.

Library Director Bonnie Williamson received an award during Northern Montana College's Human Rights Week for advancing human rights through her work at the library.

Rose Gran, circulation librarian, was cited by the Montana Committee for the Humanities for her role in developing a reading and discussion group at the Havre library.

LSCA Deadline Update

Letters of intent to apply for a Title I & III LSCA grant are due July 24, 1992. Libraries applying only for a LaserCat grant do not need to submit a letter of intent. Deadline for the Title I & III grant applications is Sept. 25, 1992.

If you have questions about LSCA, call Bob Cooper at 444-5350.

Montana State Library Commission

Mary Doggett,
Chair
White Sulphur Springs

Lloyd Wallin,
Vice-Chair
Deer Lodge

Peggy Guthrie
Choteau

Vada Taylor
Glendive

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